

other lands. Much of it is excellent and desirable, and ministers to the needs of thinking people, but, good as it may be, it does not meet the national needs of our people. As to the larger mass of magazine literature, mostly cheap, circulated in Canada, it is not of the class that can in any sense of the term minister to the higher thought and tastes of the thoughtful. The "topmost froth of thought" has no doubt its place; a dash of it in the face is grateful, especially when the face is fevered in a chase after butterflies, but it is not the literature needed for the home. It is not wholesome, and in a national sense it is valueless. A national magazine, while taking in the large questions that engage attention everywhere, should give special attention to the broad political, social and industrial questions of the country, its history, art, literature—almost everything that interests a consider-

able proportion of its readers, and is of more than a mere transitory nature. In fact, its aim is to be a repository of the best thought of the country that does not need embalming, but is of present as well as future interest. The souls of books to be may well be presented in its pages; the aspirations that fill its noblest minds may well here find an expression that will be answered simultaneously by tens of thousands in every part of the land and result not only in intellectual and moral quickening, but in bringing about with the greatest celerity forward steps in national development. The realization of this mission of a magazine is well worthy of the substantial aid of patriots and the practical encouragement of every broad-minded citizen. By all means, let us have plenty of good magazines, whether foreign or not. But for the home, if only one is to find entrance, let it be a national one.

CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES MAGAZINES.

An Editorial in the Summerside, P.E.I., Guardian.

FOR the past five or six years many of the American magazines have been full to overflowing with reminiscences of the late civil war, descriptions of battles and battlefields, biographies of the leaders, and, in short, articles on every possible phase of the struggle, until one becomes weary of the sight of the said periodicals, and wonders how much of such stuff the American reading public is prepared to swallow before the source thereof is exhausted. Now that the war with Spain is over and the Yankees victorious, there begins another war series, and goodness only knows when it will end. As an instance of the quality of "war literature" with which the United States periodicals are regaling their read-

ers, to the neglect of the scientific, social, economic, literary and educational features, take one late issue of *Leslie's Weekly*, a popular publication. It contains the following war articles: "The Treaty of Peace," "Army Hospitals," "Soldiers' Tales of Camp and Field," "Cuba's First Thanksgiving Day," "United States Soldiers in Havana," "What I saw in the War," "The Battle of Santiago Bay," and several other articles along similar lines, besides a full-page illustration of the "Horrors of Bloody Bend." Of course, if the reading public of the United States demand this class of literature and give it their support, it is their own concern; but other people will smile at the enthusiasm they are manifesting over their